

KINGDOM PRAYER & STUDY GUIDE
WEEK 5:

"THE WHY AND HOW OF WORSHIP"

FEBRUARY 10-16, 2019

FOLLOWING
JESUS:

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN
"BEST PRACTICES"
FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE



WINDSOR VILLAGE
Church Family

FOLLOWING JESUS:

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN “BEST PRACTICES” FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE

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Week 5:
THE WHY AND HOW OF WORSHIP

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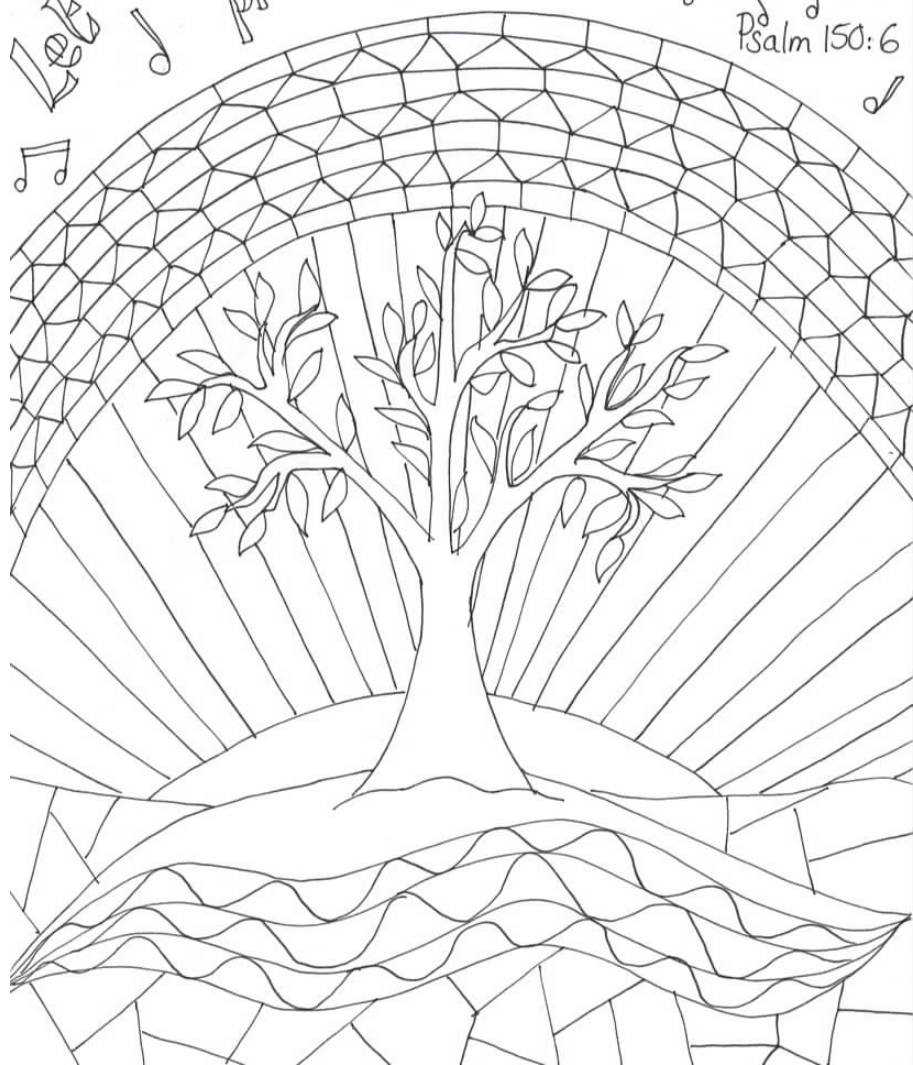
The online Prayer & Study Guide archive with all
updates and corrections can be found here:

<http://bit.do/WVCFGuideArchive>



Let everything that has breath
praise the Lord!

Psalm 150:6



Day 29:

Defining Corporate Worship

1. Center Down

Before we begin today's spiritual excursion, please take a few moments to breathe! Take three slow, deep breaths, expanding from your abdomen; try not to raise your shoulders. As you inhale, whisper, ***"We seek to worship You..."*** As you exhale, whisper, ***"...in Spirit and in truth."***

2. Slowly read aloud the following Scripture

(Feel free to pause at any time during your reading to reflect on, thank, praise, or acknowledge God's stirring in your thoughts and emotions.)

*[And Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well,]
"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is Spirit, and **those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth.**" The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming... When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I Who speak to you am He." (John 4:23-26, ESV)*

For further exploration:

Videos: <http://bit.do/3Paradigms>

Articles: <http://bit.do/BiblicalWorship>

<http://bit.do/WrightWorship2> (scholarly)

3. Kingdom Prayer

Almighty Father, as Christians, we thank You for loving us despite the way we sometimes act or think. Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with Your love, so that we may share love with others. Thank You for helping us to be more loving and compassionate towards others. Lord, we come before You clapping our hands and shouting joyful praise to You. You are the great King of all the earth. You subdue the nations before us and put our enemies under our feet. Our hearts are confident in You, Father. Because of this confidence, we will sing Your praises. We will wake the dawn with our song, Lord, among all the people. We will sing Your praises among the nations for Your unfailing love is as high as the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Glorious Father, as Your dear children, we commit to loving You with all our hearts, and with all our souls, and with all our minds. This is the greatest and most important commandment of all. We confess that the Holy Spirit fills and controls us as we commit to doing Your will. We will be patient and kind instead of acting jealous, boastful, proud or rude. We will not demand our own way, but we will be considerate of

others and their opinions. We will not be irritable or keep a record of being wronged. But we will be joyful and quick to forgive. We commit to living a righteous life. We will be patient and will not return evil with evil. We will let our light shine so that people will see our good works and glorify You, our Father.

As a Christian, how do you show your love for God and for your neighbor by your actions?

Holy Spirit, reveal to us those habits, mindsets and attitudes that prevent us from being truly surrendered to the Father. Help us not to deceive ourselves by thinking we are walking in love while using our tongues to curse those who have been made in the Father's image. In this world where we are told to put ourselves first, help us to truly put the Father first in our lives and to esteem others better than ourselves.

Exalted Father, we ask Your forgiveness for our sins. Forgive us for, at times, being irreverent and apathetic towards You. Forgive those of us who murmur and complain and do not show our love and appreciation for all that You do. Forgive us when we are impatient with our neighbor. Forgive us when we pick and choose to whom we will show love. Lord, forgive me for *(list any sins that you have committed)*.

Holy Spirit, as Christians, remind us of those we need to forgive and help us to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. *(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He reveals them, say, "I forgive name of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul caused by unforgiveness.)*

Holy Spirit, as Christians, help us not to yield to temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Eternal Lord, You are God alone. You created the heavens and the earth; You put everything in its place. You made the world to be lived in, not a place of empty chaos. You are the Lord and there is no other. You only speak what is true and declare only what is right. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture References for the Written Text: Romans 5:5, Psalm 47:1-3, Psalm 57:7-10, Matthew 22:37-39, I Corinthians 13:4, I Peter 3:9, Matthew 5:16, James 3:9, Philippians 2:3, Matthew 6:13, Isaiah 45:18-19.

4. Concepts to Consider

Last week we touched on some aspects of worship as we explored Jesus' Model prayer and how connection, praise, Scripture, confession, forgiveness, and slowing down to see and hear are critical to powerful prayer. This week we are immersing ourselves in the topic of "Corporate Worship" as the central location for Christian growth, mission, and identity. In an increasingly individualized, instant, and customized society, we see that people crave authentic connection with each other and with a God who is bigger than themselves.

As many wring their hands over declining attendance and giving in the Western Church, the truth is that the answers to our current dilemmas are found in our ancient past. We live in a time when knowledge of history is dangerously lacking. But, thanks be to God, the Holy Spirit has not been dead for 2000 years! Our world today bears many similarities to the circumstances of the earliest church.

During the first five centuries of the Church it grew and *thrived* in the middle of a very religious/pagan culture. The Church exploded not because someone was watching trends and numbers or externally battling social ills, but because they *actively* loved God and their neighbor. Worship was the ongoing everyday key. They didn't "go to worship;" life was worship. They worked to live out what Jesus said and demonstrated. God's transforming work *within* human persons made ALL the difference.

(Note: even the most hermetic of the Desert Fathers and Mothers believed they were called to do Kingdom work in prayer, corporate worship, and study. Everyone has their own calling, but all of it is meant to work together as the Body of Christ to bring about God's Shalom in the earth.)

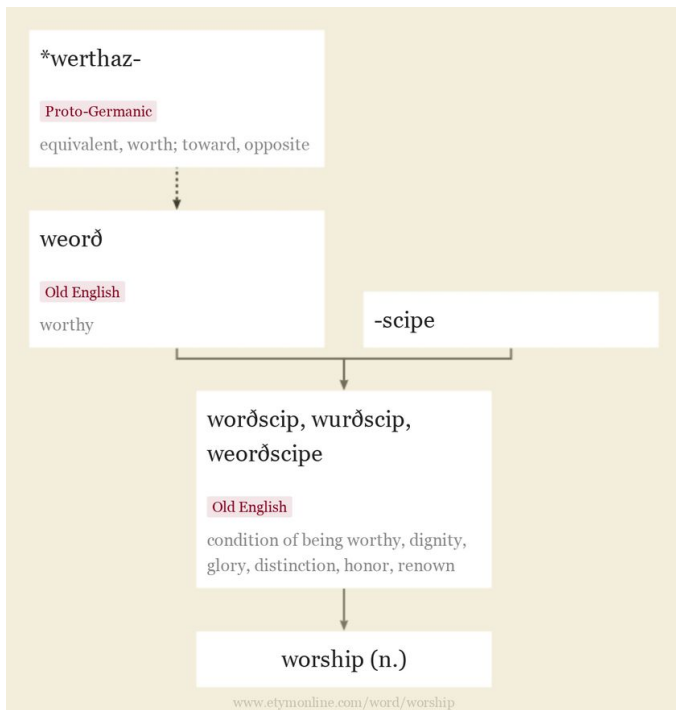
The Church worked to bring people into “live-wire” contact with our vibrant, loving, re-creating God through Jesus Christ, empowered by His Spirit. When this connection happened, people left the pagan temples, social morals changed, and the church made a lasting imprint in the world around them. God's Kingdom approach is from the inside out and from the bottom up. It is about creating a new primary identity in Jesus. They brought Kingdom by fostering "Kin-dom."

*“And looking about at those who sat around Him, [Jesus] said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother” (Mark 3:34-35, ESV). “Do not allow this [age] to mold you in its own image. Instead, **be transformed from the inside out by renewing your mind.** As a result, you will be able to discern what God wills and whatever God finds good, pleasing, and complete” (Romans 12:1-2, VOICE).*

Current trends indicate that we must “think outside the box” of our buildings and truly accept the commission to “go.” In the earliest worshiping communities, the “location” (usually someone's home) functioned more as a headquarters for prayer, learning, and as a community center that *launched* everyday Christians into the world equipped with a deep understanding of the Apostolic teachings and Godly wisdom.

Intentional catechesis (*life-to-life exchange of knowledge and practice*) and regular experiences of the Divine in Scripture-saturated liturgy was the “normal mode” for the Church.

Worship is more than being in a room with other Christians, and it’s certainly more than coming together out of tradition, obligation, or habit. Worship is even more than the music or the preaching. At its core worship is a verb. We Worship the Triune God. We offer Him worth, thanks, and praise. Not because He needs it or demands it, but because worshiping re-aligns us and re-orientes our hearts and minds toward Him and His heart. And when this realignment happens, then all Heaven can break loose!



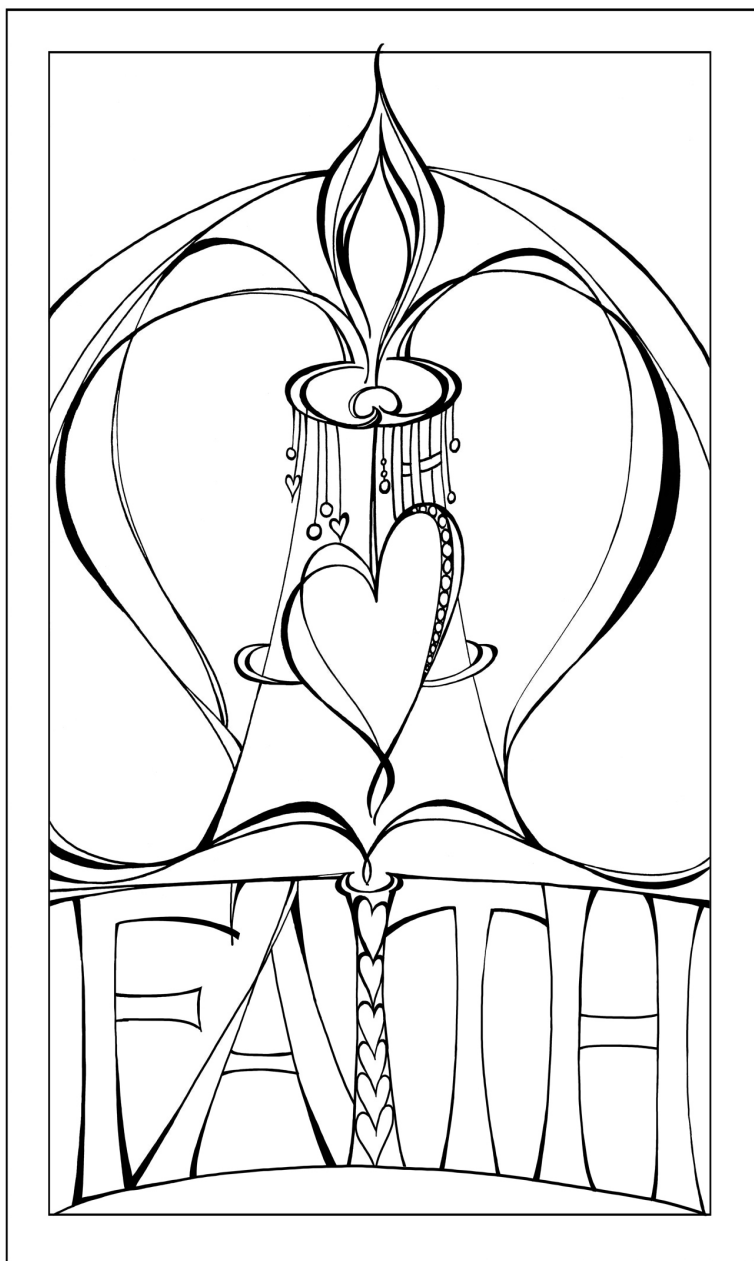
5. Reflection Questions

a. **Personal Reflection:** We worship both publicly and privately, but corporate worship embodies the communal heart of the God we worship. None of us were meant to walk this Christ-following adventure alone. When has corporate worship been encouraging? When has it been a challenge?

b. **Kingdom Reflection:** Corporate worship is, at a very important level, a rehearsal for the age to come when we--every tribe, nation, and tongue--will worship God around His throne in the New Earth. How does knowing this is our future in Jesus change your perspective on corporate worship?

Optional Time of Centering/Soaking:

If possible, take some time, perhaps 5 to 15 minutes, to get into a comfortable position and simply allow the Lord to minister to you at a deep level (Psalm 42:7). Turn off or put down all distractions. Close your eyes. Hold in your thoughts a meaningful word, phrase, or image from the Scripture passages you read today. Release all other thoughts and concerns into the Presence of the Lord. If your thoughts wander, that's okay, just gently return to your Scriptural word, phrase, or image. You may want to set a timer.



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Day 30:

Why Should We (Still) Gather?

1. Center Down

Before we begin today's spiritual excursion, please take a few moments to breathe! Take three slow, deep breaths, expanding from your abdomen; try not to raise your shoulders. As you inhale, whisper, ***"We open our mouths..."*** As you exhale, whisper, ***"...to encourage and praise."***

2. Slowly read aloud the following Scriptures

(Feel free to pause at any time during your reading to reflect on, thank, praise, or acknowledge God's stirring in your thoughts and emotions.)

So, friends, we can now—without hesitation—walk right up to God, into "the Holy Place." Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of His sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The "curtain" into God's presence is His body.

*So let's do it—full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps His Word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, **not avoiding worshiping together as some do** but spurring each other on, especially as we see the Big Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:19-25, MSG)*

For further exploration:

Videos: <http://bit.do/EqualityTable>

<http://bit.do/IncarnationalWorship> (30 min)

Articles: <http://bit.do/OnlineConcern>

<http://bit.do/WorkasWorship>

3. Kingdom Prayer

Abba Father, we thank You with all of our hearts as we meet with Your people. Your deeds are so amazing; all who delight in You should ponder them. Everything You do reveals Your glory and majesty. Your righteousness never fails. You are wonderful and Your Name is highly exalted. You are worthy of all our praise. You are worthy of the glory, honor and power. Lord, the heavens declare Your glory and the skies display Your craftsmanship. Lord, we thank You for righteous fellowship among the believers in our church and beyond. We thank You for ordering our steps in Your Word. Thank You for the events, activities and programs at our local churches that help to create fellowship within our Church Family. We are grateful for our fellowship and communion which we have with You, our Father, Jesus, our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our Sustainer. Lord, You are an awesome God.

Mighty Father, Your will is for us to dwell together in unity. As the Body of Christ, we declare that we will think of ways to motivate one another through

acts of love and good works. We will not get tired of doing what is good for each other. As a result, we expect to reap a harvest of blessing at the right time. We will not give up and at every opportunity, we will do good to everyone—especially to those in our family of faith. We will not neglect our meeting together, but we will encourage one another in the faith. Iron sharpens iron so we confess that we will surround ourselves with those who have the mind of Christ so that we are positioned to glorify You in our public and private lives. Father, You asked us to meet together with Your people. We confess that we will engage in righteous fellowship through our churches and social gatherings and forsake all that will deter us from fulfilling Your will. Father, we confess that we are blessed because we do not follow the advice of the wicked, stand around with sinners or join in with mockers; but our delight is in Your Word. By faith, we declare that we are as trees planted along the riverbanks that bear fruit each season and we prosper in all that we do. We will be doers of Your Word and not hearers only. We will fight for righteous fellowship and we will win. Lord, we decree that we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ!

Holy Spirit, show me how to strengthen the God-ordained relationships in my life. Show me those relationships that I need to end and give me the strength to end them:

Holy Spirit, we ask that You align our relationships with Your will in our homes, churches, jobs and communities. Holy Spirit, show each of us how to organize our calendars and schedules so that godly fellowship is more of a priority. Send godly friends to those who are lonely. Help us and our churches to set the example of what righteous fellowship looks like. Knit our hearts closer together. Lord, help us to be obedient as You order our steps. Give us the power to crucify our flesh and walk in Your light. As we yield to the power of the Holy Spirit, help us to drop our gossip buddies, smoking buddies, promiscuous buddies, club-hopping buddies and anyone who the devil may use to keep us from glorifying God through our fellowship with the righteous. Holy Spirit, heal the wounds of those who were hurt by people in the church. Rebuild confidence in You and Your creation: the Church. Holy Father, lead them to the community of faith You have chosen for them. Help us to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify You, our Heavenly Father.

Merciful Father, forgive us for our sins. Forgive those who do not participate in Godly fellowship. Forgive those who do not honor and participate in Your institution, the Church. Forgive those for the unrighteous relationships that keep them from Your best for their lives. Forgive those who are disobedient when You have told them to end certain relationships and they refuse to do so. Forgive all of us for putting our work, including ministries, in front of family and friends. Forgive us for all acts of sinfulness, including: hatred, rebellion, murder, idolatry, sexual sins, greed,

racism, injustice, and violence. Forgive us for the works of the flesh and the pride of life. Forgive us for having fellowship or relationship with anything that is not of You. Forgive us for the doors that we may have opened through poor decisions. Help us to know that there is no condemnation to those of us who are in Christ and that as we confess our sins, we are forgiven and that You remember them no more. Father, forgive me for *(list any sins that you have committed.)*

Holy Spirit, remind us of those we need to forgive and help us to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. *(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He reveals them say, "I forgive name of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul caused by unforgiveness.)*

Holy Spirit, help us not to yield to temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, You are to be praised forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, power, glory, victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is Yours. This is Your Kingdom, Lord, and You are exalted as head over all. Riches and honor come from You alone, for You rule over everything. Power and might are in Your hand, and it is at Your discretion that people are

made great and given strength. O Lord our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture References for Written Text: Psalm 111:1-3, Revelation 4:11, Psalm 19:1, Psalm 133:1, Hebrews 10:24-25, Proverbs 27:17, Philippians 2:5, Psalm 111:1, Psalm 1:1-3, James 1:22, Romans 8:37, Matthew 5:16, Romans 8:1, Isaiah 43:25, Matthew 6:13, I Chronicles 29:10-13

4. Concepts to Consider

The most straightforward answer to “Why Should We (Still) Gather?” is that by physically gathering on a regular basis we reflect the complex unity that is the Triune God into the world around us.

Indeed, all of our ordinary activities (work, feeding pets, cooking, washing the car, waiting in the carpool line, etc.) can be moments infused with worship as we take time to acknowledge God's presence in the midst of it all. However, even these more private moments are all meant to flow from the “common life” nature of our Faith (Acts 2).

Notice, again, the individual yet communal worship language present in Paul's general instructions to the Roman church:

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship** [and reasonable service.] ... For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many,*

*are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them....
(Romans 12:1-6, ESV)*

The Church is both a symbol pointing to and an embodiment of who we are in Jesus (1 Corinthians 2:9). As we worship together we symbolize God's desire for unity among His people (John 17:11), and we are charged to embody the work that Jesus started (He who began a good work in you [all] is able to complete it... Philippians 1:6). Our Kingdom-proclaiming assignment that we share with Jesus (*our co-mission*) starts at a table (*gathering to worship*), leads to a cross (*humility*) and walks upright (*renewed life*) into the world, nourished and empowered by His gracious Spirit to "be Jesus" among the people who intersect our paths every day.

(Note: The above is not a teaching against online church. It is merely a caution to not make the virtual world our primary means of interacting with the Body of Christ. Worship is not a "spectator sport." We are challenged in the Word to participate in our salvation process, not just passively sit, listen, and hope for the best (James 1:22). While genuine community can certainly be created online, as human beings made in God's image, we are still inherently designed to need interpersonal engagement in the physical world and to participate regularly in the Household of Faith through the sharing of sacraments and the inter-mutual worship of our Triune God!)

5. Reflection Questions

a. Personal Reflection: We are not called to be “worship critics” or “worship consumers.” This kind of mind set misses the grander points of why we gather to worship our Living God. How has your perception of worship been challenged? How has it been affirmed?

b. Kingdom Reflection: Worship is meant to connect us to the world-wide Church of Jesus Christ around shared relationship, liturgy, and Word. How does realizing that our worship is communal and transcendent affect your understanding of corporate worship?

Optional Time of Centering/Soaking:

If possible, take some time, perhaps 5 to 15 minutes, to get into a comfortable position and simply allow the Lord to minister to you at a deep level (Psalm 42:7). Turn off or put down all distractions. Close your eyes. Hold in your thoughts a meaningful word, phrase, or image from the Scripture passages you read today. Release all other thoughts and concerns into the Presence of the Lord. If your thoughts wander, that's okay, just gently return to your Scriptural word, phrase, or image. You may want to set a timer.



**...“SPEAK
LORD,
YOUR
SERVANT
IS
LISTENING.”**

1SAMUEL 3:10B

Day 31:

Overcoming Worship Challenges

1. Center Down

Before we begin today's spiritual excursion, please take a few moments to breathe! Take three slow, deep breaths, expanding from your abdomen; try not to raise your shoulders. As you inhale, whisper, "***We will glorify You...***" As you exhale whisper, "***...with one voice.***"

2. Slowly read aloud the following Scripture

(Feel free to pause at any time during your reading to reflect on, thank, praise, or acknowledge God's stirring in your thoughts and emotions.)

[The Apostle Paul wrote,] We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to [accommodate] ourselves. Let each of us [accommodate, make room for] his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me" (Psalm 69:9). For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:1-7, ESV)

For further exploration:

Video: <http://bit.ly/MakeRoom1>

Article: <http://bit.do/WorshipFrustration>

3. Kingdom Prayer

Loving Father, You are the force that holds us all together. Thank You for being compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. Thank You for Jesus who prayed that we would all be one, even as He is one with You. Thank You for gifting the Body of Christ with apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip us to do the work of the Lord and build us up until we come to unity in our faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Father God, You are our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. We praise Your Name! We stand still before You, knowing that You are God. You will be honored by every nation throughout the world. May the nations of this world recognize You, Lord. We give You the glory You deserve!

Omnipotent Father, this day we commit as a Church Family, to search for You and for Your strength continually. We declare that we will not be afraid, for You are with us. We will not be discouraged, for You are our God. You will strengthen and help us.

You will hold us up with Your victorious right hand. We know that for the life of God to thrive among us, there must be harmony and unity between us. We refuse to bring sorrow to the Holy Spirit by living and operating in a way that is outside of Your will. We assert ourselves as a body of believers to rid our Church Family of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. We will demonstrate that we have passed from death to life by loving our Christian brothers and sisters. We confess that we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit and we all share that same Spirit. Therefore, we decree and declare that we will not be selfish or try to impress others. But we will be humble, thinking of others as better than ourselves. We will not look out only for our own interests, but we will take an interest in others too. We will build each other up in our most holy faith. We will pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and we will await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ who will bring us eternal life. In this way, we will keep ourselves safe in God's love.

Holy Spirit, show me how I can defeat strife and division within our Church Family today:

Holy Spirit, remind us as a Church Family that we are to be holy just as God, our Father, who chose us is holy. He has commanded this of us. Give us the strength to think clearly and to exercise self-control. Help us to release past and present offenses

and to be willing to forgive one another just as God has forgiven us. Teach us how to dwell together in unity. Walk us through the steps of rebuilding loving fellowship between us. Help us to obey Your command to “love your neighbor as yourself” so that we will not self-destruct by always biting and devouring one another. Give us a willing heart to allow You to guide our lives so that we won’t do what our sinful nature craves. Show our leaders how to mend broken relationships and restore balance to our Church Family.

Merciful Father, forgive our many sins. We have sinned against You and against one another. Forgive us for holding onto grudges and for seeking vengeance upon our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Forgive us for leaning toward our own understanding and failing to acknowledge You in all our ways. Forgive those amongst us who are being false witnesses, pouring out lies and sowing discord in our Church family. Forgive those of us who have stood by passively allowing sin and deception to go unaddressed. Forgive us for not heeding the warnings of the Holy Spirit and being hesitant to obey Your commands. Lord, forgive me for *(list any sins that You have committed)*.

Holy Spirit, remind our Church Family of those they need to forgive and help them to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive.

(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal names or faces of people that You may need to forgive. As He reveals them, say, “I forgive name of person(s).” Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in Your soul caused by unforgiveness.)

Holy Spirit, help us as a Church Family not to yield to temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Magnificent King, You reign forever, executing judgment from Your throne. You will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness. We listen carefully to the thunder of Your voice as it rolls from Your mouth. It rolls across the heavens and Your lightning flashes in every direction. We are in awe of the tremendous voice of Your majesty. You do not restrain it when You speak. Your voice is glorious in the thunder. We can't even imagine the greatness of Your power. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture References for the Written Text: Psalm 103:8, John 17:21, Ephesians 4:11-13, Psalm 46:1, 10, I Chronicles 16:28-29, Psalm 105:4, Isaiah 41:10, Ephesians 4:30-31, I John 3:14, Philippians 2:3-4, Jude 1:20-21, I Peter 1:13, 15, 17, Galatians 5:14-16, Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 6:19, Matthew 6:13, Psalm 9:7-8, Job 37:2-5

4. Concepts to Consider

Frustration in American worship services often manifests itself in two basic forms: 1. the consumeristic refrain of, “this sermon/music/style, etc. just isn't doing anything for me,” or 2) the seasoned worshiper dilemma, “come on, why does it seem that I'm one of the few people actually worshipping the Lord, here? Why are you just sitting there?!”

In our Scripture passage today we see the call to “give glory” to the Lord (worship) with “one voice” by making room for those who are less mature in the faith, and to “build up” one another so that we learn to pull in the same direction (“live in harmony”) with similar dedication in the Body of Christ.

The historical word for organized worship is “liturgy” (*from the Greek word “leitourgos”*) which basically means “the work of the people,” in “accordance” with the “*Opus Dei*” or “work of God” as exemplified to us in Jesus Christ. *He* is the confluence of human and the Divine interaction. It is His Spirit that moves first and initiates worship. It is we who respond in community and encourage one another, no matter where we are along the spectrum of spiritual maturity.

It may be helpful to think of a worship service as being similar to a Greek galley ship (*Trireme*) (*which contrary to popular belief and the movie Ben Hur, was NOT populated by slave rowers, but by free, trained military professionals.*) Each ship required many skilled people to pull and row in the same direction, at the same time, with near-equal effort, all while listening intently to 1) the musician (*auletes*) who played a pitch or tune to ensure rowing precision, 2) the captain (*trierarch*) who gave the orders for the direction and speed of the boat, and 3) the “encourager/exhorter” (*keleustes*) who relayed the commands down to the rowing crew so everyone could hear clearly and keep time. If some of the rowers got out of sync or stopped rowing with the same effort, then the ship could no longer move effectively or efficiently. It would slow down, go off course, or potentially stop dead in the water.

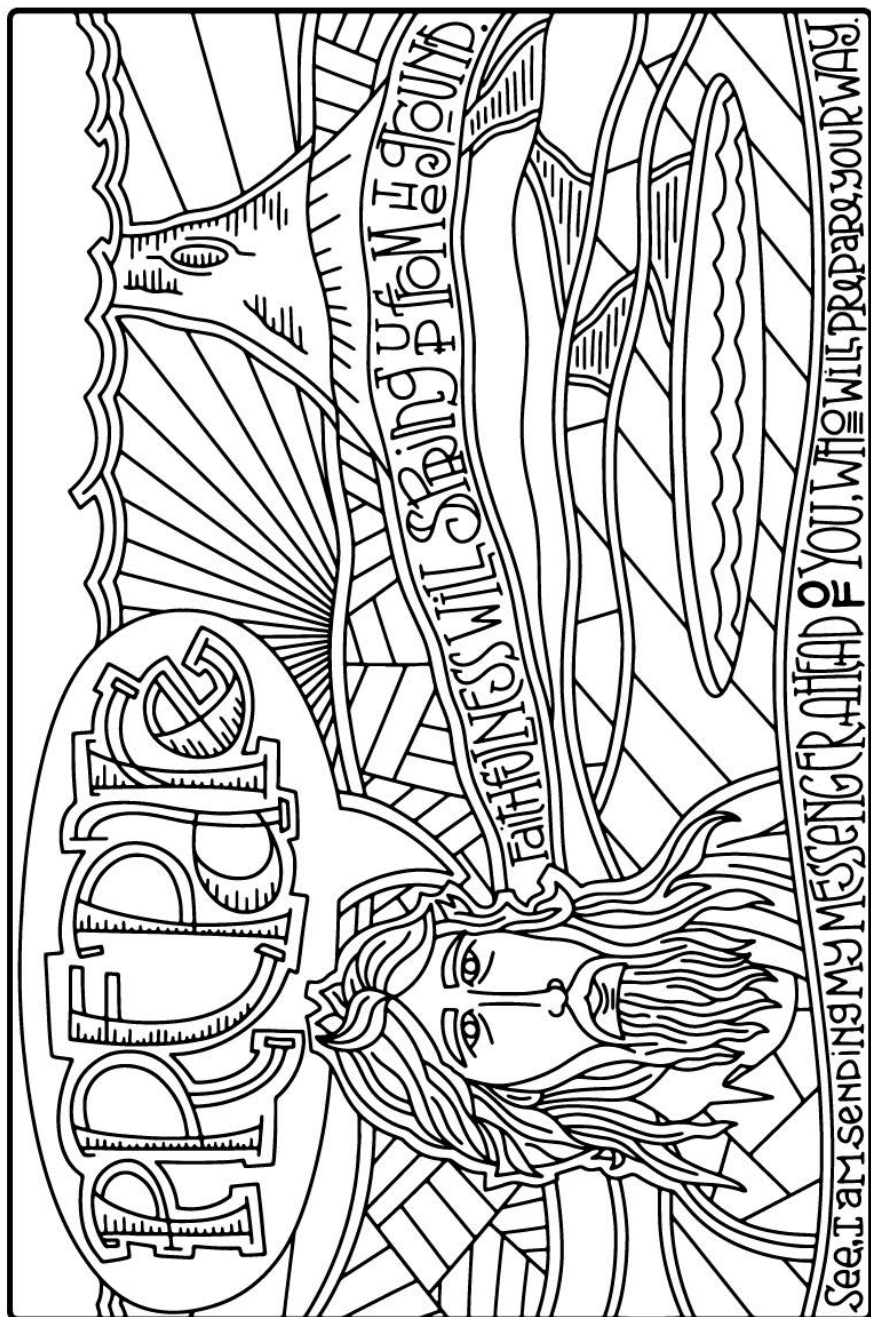
5. Reflection Questions:

a. **Personal Reflection:** How does realizing that we are called to "row together" in worship help put individual agendas in perspective?

b. **Kingdom Reflection:** We worship not to get something from God, but to give Him the praise due His Name. How does worshiping the Lord "clear the deck" for Him to work in the world?

Optional Time of Centering/Soaking:

If possible, take some time, perhaps 5 to 15 minutes, to get into a comfortable position and simply allow the Lord to minister to you at a deep level (Psalm 42:7). Turn off or put down all distractions. Close your eyes. Hold in your thoughts a meaningful word, phrase, or image from the Scripture you read today. Release all other thoughts and concerns into the Presence of the Lord. If your thoughts wander, that's okay, just gently return to your Scriptural word, phrase, or image. You may want to set a timer.



Day 32:

Worship Prep

1. Center Down

Before we begin today's spiritual excursion, please take a few moments to breathe! Take three slow, deep breaths, expanding from your abdomen; try not to raise your shoulders. As you inhale, whisper, "***We prepare...*** As you exhale, whisper, "***...for Your Presence.***"

2. Slowly read aloud the following Scripture

(Feel free to pause at any time during your reading to reflect on, thank, praise, or acknowledge God's stirring in your thoughts and emotions.)

*And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" And He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, **and they prepared the Passover.***
(John 14:12-16, ESV)

For further exploration:

Video: <http://bit.do/ChanWorship> (30 min)

3. Kingdom Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the men and women You have appointed as Pastors of our Windsor Village Church Family. Thank You for their leadership and wisdom. Thank You for leading, directing and protecting their families. Thank You for Pastors Kirbyjon and Suzette Caldwell, Pastor Mark Grafenreed and Pastor Kim Orr and their families. Thank You for Ministers Ray Bady, Craig Barnett, Reverend James Andrews and Dr. Earl and Mrs. Jeanette Allen and their families. Lord, You are our Good Shepherd and High Priest. You are a great God and a great King above all gods. You hold in Your hands the depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains. The sea belongs to You, for You made it. Your hands formed the dry land, too. Today, we bow down and worship You. We kneel before You and acknowledge You as our maker. You are our God and we are the people that You watch over and have taken under Your care.

Almighty Father, Your Word says that those who fear You and delight in obeying Your commands will be joyful. You promised that their children will be successful everywhere. We declare that the descendants of our Pastors are mighty on earth and blessed because they are the generation of Godly people. We declare that our Pastors will be wealthy

and their good deeds will last forever. We confess that their peace is great and their composure is undisturbed. Our Pastors' families will experience the Kingdom of God here on earth; people will see their good works and glorify You, our Father in Heaven. Our Pastors obey Your commands; therefore, their families will be blessed in the city and in the fields. They will be blessed when they come in and when they go out. Lord, we expect that You will cause their enemies who rise against them one way to be defeated and flee seven ways. Lord, it is our expectation that You will command Your blessing upon their storehouses and in all that they set their hands to do and You will bless them in the land. We confess that our Pastors and their families are the head and not the tail; they are above only and not beneath.

Holy Spirit, fill our Pastors' homes with Your gentleness, peace and joy. We lift up their marriages and we ask You to bless them physically, psychologically, emotionally and sexually. Bless their children to mature academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Lord, strengthen and encourage those families who feel overwhelmed by ministry. Lord, we ask that You protect our Pastors and their families from the onslaughts of the devil and the disrespect of people. Please help them to maintain balance in their public and private lives. Show us as a Church Family what we can do to encourage, support and assist our Pastors.

Merciful Father, forgive us for not being steadfast in praying for our Pastors and their families. Forgive

those among us who speak ill against our Pastors and rebel against their teachings. Forgive those who gossip, murmur, complain, and whine. Please forgive our Pastors and their families for any acts of sinfulness, including anger, wrath, envy, jealousy, or dissension. Lord, forgive me for *(list any sins that you have committed)*.

Holy Spirit, remind our Pastors and their families to forgive each other and other people, and please help them to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. *(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal names or faces of people that You may need to forgive. As He reveals them, say, "I forgive name of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in Your soul caused by unforgiveness.)*

Holy Spirit, help our Pastors and their families not to yield to temptation but deliver them from the evil one.

O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, may You be praised forever and ever! Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is Yours. This is Your kingdom. We adore You as the One who is over all things.

Scripture References for the Written Text (NKJV & NLT): John 10:11, Hebrews 3:1, Psalm 95:3-7, Psalm 112:1-3, Isaiah 54:13 AMP, Matthew 5:16, Deuteronomy 28:3-8,13, Galatians 5:19-21, Matthew 6:13, I Chronicles 29:10-11.

4. Concepts to Consider

In today's Scripture passage we see the disciples preparing for Passover (a worship celebration) by 1. asking the right questions; 2. listening expectantly; 3. seeing with faith; and 4. participating in hope. On any given day, as we enter into individual or corporate worship, it's important to take a little time to prepare ourselves, so that we don't just "fake it, 'til we make it." Think about it. Had Jesus' disciples just called "Uber Eats" for a Passover meal and set up a folding table in a parking lot wherever they felt like it, the Upper Room experience with Jesus would not have been the powerful interaction we have recorded in the Gospels. There was a specific scene Jesus wanted to set that was conducive to how He intended to engage His disciples on the eve of His crucifixion.

So, what are some **"right questions" we may want to ask ourselves and God** in preparation for worship? Here are a few suggestions, in no particular order: "Where are my thoughts focused right now?" "Lord, what aspects of Your Character do You desire to reveal to Your people today?" "Have we been still enough to recognize God is already present and at work among us?" "Is there anything I need to confess or set aside?" "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, where are You directing the attention of Your people today in prayer?"

Listening expectantly means we slow down to listen for the voice of Jesus in the very next moment, the next heartbeat, the next breath. Believing that our desire to listen and wait for His direction is itself pleasing in God's sight. O Lord, we wait for you! For Your ways are perfect and Your lovingkindness toward us is ever lasting.

Seeing through the lens of faith is tied to asking and listening. Last week we reflected on what it might mean to "see with our ears." In the same way, we wait expectantly for the Lord to move in our midst. The Lord is passing by... we dare to reach out and touch the hem of Your garment!

Now that we've asked, listened, and looked; it's time to release the arrow of **participating in hope**. As we've previously discussed, worship requires our participation, not our static observation. We don't participate because it's tradition or a rote requirement, but because when we lift our hearts to our Loving Lord in hope and in anticipation of what He might say or do next, we come alive in His re-creative work. We don't have everything figured out, and we don't know what's next, but we wait in breathless anticipation on you, Lord!

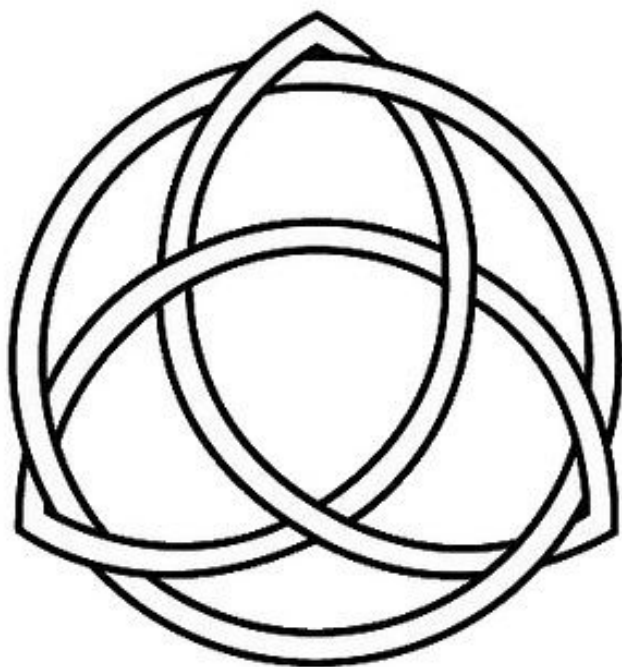
5. Reflection Questions

a. **Personal Reflection:** How will I prepare to hear from Jesus today?

b. **Kingdom Reflection:** What are some things we may need to consider doing as a Church Family in order to better prepare for the worship of God?

Optional Time of Centering/Soaking:

If possible, take some time, perhaps 5 to 15 minutes, to get into a comfortable position and simply allow the Lord to minister to you at a deep level (Psalm 42:7). Turn off or put down all distractions. Close your eyes. Hold in your thoughts a meaningful word, phrase, or image from the Scripture you read today. Release all other thoughts and concerns into the Presence of the Lord. If your thoughts wander, that's okay, just gently return to your Scriptural word, phrase, or image. You may want to set a timer.



“Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth
is full of his glory.”

- Isaiah 6:3b

Day 33:

Entering into Worship

1. Center Down

Before you begin today's spiritual excursion, please take a few moments to breathe! Take three slow, deep breaths, expanding from your abdomen; try not to raise your shoulders. As you inhale, whisper, "***You are worthy, Lord...***" As you exhale whisper, "***...to receive glory, honor and power.***"

2. Slowly read aloud the following Scripture

(Feel free to pause at any time during your reading to reflect on, thank, praise, or acknowledge God's stirring in your thoughts and emotions.)

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

*"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!"*

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who is seated on the throne and worship Him Who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

*“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”*

(Revelation 4:6-11, ESV)

For further exploration:

Video: <http://bit.do/KeenerRev4> (25 min)

Class: <http://bit.do/revelation-class>
(see esp. Lessons 5 and 6)

3. Kingdom Prayer

Our Father, we thank You for dwelling in our personal lives. Our Father, we thank You for dwelling in our personal lives. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who makes our relationship with You possible. Holy Spirit, we thank You for Your manifested presence saturating the sanctuary and people. Father, we acknowledge that this is Your doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. You are great and perform wondrous deeds. You alone are God. Thank You for filling the earth with an awareness of Your glory. Lord, You are good. Your unfailing love continues forever, and Your faithfulness to each generation. We praise You, for Your kindness and for Your truth.

Lord Jesus, we are a people who rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in everything! We will shout with joy to You. We declare that the Spirit of the Lord rests upon our lives. We worship You with gladness and come before Your presence singing joyfully. Lord Jesus, we see and reflect Your glory. The Holy Spirit is making us more and more like You as we are changed into Your glorious image. Lord, we confess that as we receive Your Word it will be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We are doers of Your Word and not hearers only.

Holy Spirit, we ask for a fresh anointing upon our personal lives so that we will be compelled to draw closer to Your Son, Jesus Christ. Father God, please inhabit our praise. Holy Spirit, draw us into communion with our Father and Jesus Christ. Each time we gather, bless us to have a personal encounter with You. Unify us and knit our hearts together. Sanctify and purify our hearts so that our worship is a sweet aroma to God, our Father, as we sing melodious songs. Please give us continued strength, discernment and wisdom as we work the work that You have called us to do. In our relationships, help us to serve each other in humility, and with the spirit of excellence and the garment of praise. May all who encounter us experience Your love, compassion and mercy.

Loving Father, please forgive us for not arranging our schedules to spend focused and attentive time with You. Please forgive us for seeking after our own selfish desires instead of seeking after You. Forgive those of us for not praying and fasting as we should. Forgive

those of us for not studying Your Word. Forgive us for wrong attitudes and sin in our hearts that prevent us from obeying You. Lord forgive me for *(list any sins that You have committed.)*

Holy Spirit, remind us all of those we need to forgive and help us to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. *(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal names or faces of people that You may need to forgive. As He reveals them, say, "I forgive name of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in Your soul caused by unforgiveness.)*

Holy Spirit, help us all not to yield to temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

God Almighty, You are our Sovereign Lord. You are awesome in all Your ways. Your works are great and marvelous. All of Your ways are just and true. Now to You, the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture References for the Written Text: Psalm 86:10, Psalm 100:5, Habakkuk 2:14, Psalm 118:23, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Isaiah 56:7, I Thessalonians 5:16-18, Psalm 100:1-4, II Chronicles 5:12-14, Psalm 119:105, Matthew 6:13, I Timothy 1:17

4. Concepts to Consider

In this scene from Revelation 4, the Triune God invites us to enter into the worship that is always happening in His immediate presence. Around His throne we see the fullness of creation (represented by the four living creatures) and the Church (represented by the 24 elders) continually bowing down and casting their crowns before the throne. We learn to rule rightly in the earth when we align our authority with God's, and we become the best versions of ourselves when we do not choose to grasp the crown and seek to rule as we see fit, as Adam and Eve did in the Garden.

Worship is all about surrendering the control of our relationship *with* God *to* God. Being willing to be in relationship with God *on God's terms*, not ours. That's the sacrifice of praise we make with our very lives. We have a choice on how we enter into the ongoing worship of God. What will you do with your crown?

5. Reflection Questions

a. **Personal Reflection:** What *will* you do with your crown? Are you willing to build a relationship with God on His terms?

b. **Kingdom Reflection:** The worship we observe in the immediate presence of God is universal. All of creation gives Him praise. Only *we*, as humans made in His image, have the *choice* to worship. How will we enter into worship and join the cosmic chorus of adoration of our Creating and Re-creating Lord?

Optional Time of Centering/Soaking:

If possible, take some time, perhaps 5 to 15 minutes, to get into a comfortable position and simply allow the Lord to minister to you at a deep level (Psalm 42:7). Turn off or put down all distractions. Close your eyes. Hold in your thoughts a meaningful word, phrase, or image from the Scripture you read today. Release all other thoughts and concerns into the Presence of the Lord. If your thoughts wander, that's okay, just gently return to your Biblical word, phrase, or image. You may want to set a timer.

Day 34:

Extending and Expanding Worship

1. Center Down

Before we begin today's spiritual excursion, please take a few moments to breathe! Take three slow, deep breaths, expanding from your abdomen; try not to raise your shoulders. As you inhale, whisper, ***"We raise our voice with the heavens..."*** As you exhale whisper, ***"...to give You glory!"***

2. Slowly read aloud the following Scripture

(Feel free to pause at any time during your reading to reflect on, thank, praise, or acknowledge God's stirring in your thoughts and emotions.)

*The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.
Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In them He has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

...

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19)*

For further exploration:

Video: <http://bit.do/Psalm19Marcello>

<http://bit.do/HeavensRTellingHaydn>

3. Kingdom Prayer

Almighty Father, we thank You for the exuberant praise and worship during our weekend Worship Celebrations. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who makes our worship experience possible. Holy Spirit, we thank You for Your manifested presence saturating the sanctuary and our congregation as we gather to exalt the Name of the King of kings and Lord of lords. You are great and perform wondrous deeds. You alone are God. We praise You for Your lovingkindness and for Your truth and faithfulness. Father, through all generations You have been our home! Before the mountains were born, before You gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, You are God.

Royal Father, as Kingdom citizens, we shout with joy to You. We worship You with gladness and come before Your presence with joyful singing. You are the Lord, our God! You made us, and we are Yours. We are Your people, the sheep of Your pasture. We enter

with thanksgiving and come into Your courts with praise. We give thanks to You and praise Your Name. Lord, You are good; Your unfailing love continues forever and Your faithfulness to each generation. We enter into Your sanctuary with our thanksgiving and praise. We declare that our worship and praise will produce spectacular sounds like the Levites who praised You in Your holy temple. As You inhabit our praises, we declare that salvation, healing, restoration and deliverance will come forth. By faith, we declare that every member of the Body of Christ will worship You in Spirit and Truth. By doing this, we will become the true worshipers You are seeking.

Holy Spirit, since our worship is a direct reflection of our relationship with the Father, help each of us to examine that relationship and make whatever adjustments needed so that our praise may be pleasing to our King. Let Your glory fill us and our churches. Help us to live lifestyles of praise and not wait until we get to church to begin to exalt our King. Sanctify and purify our hearts so that our worship is a sweet aroma to God, our Father, as we sing melodious songs of praise to Him.

Merciful Father, forgive us for allowing our emotions and circumstances to dictate the level of praise that we offer to You. Forgive those who intentionally arrive late to service in an attempt to miss praise and worship. Forgive those who do not actively participate in praise and worship. Forgive those who are not living lives that reflect their love for You. Lord, forgive me for *(list any sins that you have committed)*.

Holy Spirit, remind us all of those we need to forgive and help us to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. *(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal names or faces of people that You may need to forgive. As He reveals them, say, “I forgive name of person(s).” Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in Your soul caused by unforgiveness.)*

Holy Spirit, help us not to yield to temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Sovereign Lord, God Almighty, You are glorious! You are the Rock; Your deeds are perfect. Everything You do is just and fair. You are the faithful God who does no wrong. Now to You, the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture References for the Written Text: Psalm 86:10, Psalm 90:1-2, Psalm 100:1-5, II Chronicles 5:12-14, Psalm 22:3, John 4:23, Matthew 6:13, Deuteronomy 32:4, I Timothy 1:17 NKJV

4. Concepts to Consider

Worship as a lifestyle sounds good, but how do we pragmatically take what we experience during worship into the grind of our day? Like the stars, we were created to “show forth the glory of God” and to extend and expand the worship of God into the

cosmos around us. *(Think of a small pebble sending out ripples in a still pond. These ripples can have long-range effects that the pebble is not always directly aware of.)* But some days, let's be honest, we don't feel nor act very "glorious." When we are triggered and pressed by life, it's in these moments that we have a choice to "present ourselves as living sacrifices," i.e., take steps to begin to speak the truth of God's Word over our lives. Stop, think, and praise.

What if we began to set calendar alerts to get up and take a short walk and pray as we go, or remind ourselves to take a drink of water and thank God for his provision as we sip. Sometimes we may need to reach out to a Godly friend for encouragement, or just find a few moments to breathe and meditate on God's Presence and His Word.

As we make incremental efforts to build new worship habits (with the help of the Holy Spirit) little by little we begin to realize we are not who we used to be. Our brain has been transformed to respond with grace rather than to react in fear, suspicion, or hurt.

***(Note of caution:** Let us learn to be patient and gentle with ourselves in this process of worship-infused transformation. "There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." [Romans 8:1])*

As we grow, we also awaken to the reality that our "life as worship" posture has begun to leave room for God to have life-giving effects on situations and people around us *(ripples in the pond)*. This is worship as evangelism. When we lift up Christ, *He* will draw

people to Himself (John 12:32), slowly, organically through the grace He is able to exude through our lives as we give worth to the One Who gives us life.

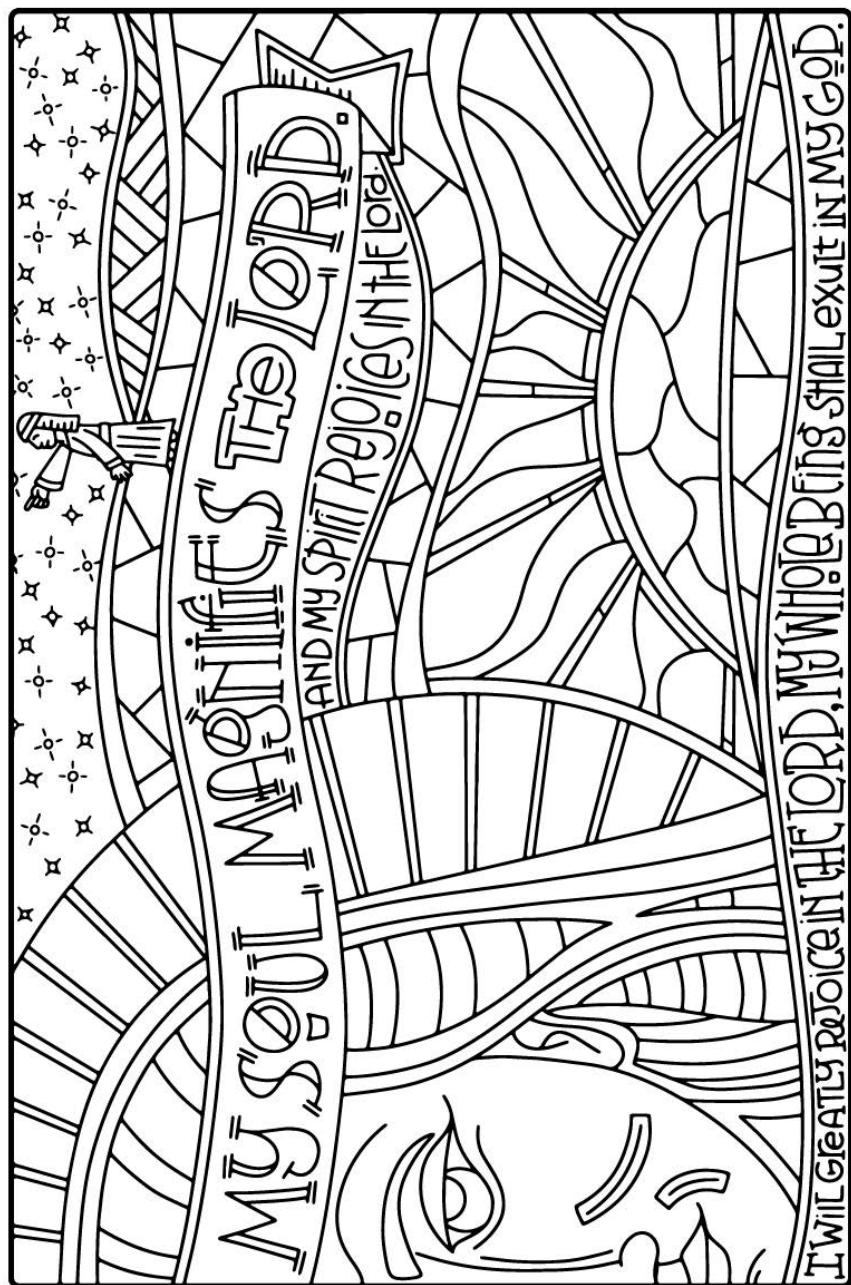
5. Reflection Questions

a. Personal Reflection. How will you make room for new habits of worship and grace to take root in your life?

b. Kingdom Reflection. If worship can be evangelism, then how can I “lift up my head” and position myself to be a more effective conduit of God’s saving grace to those around me?

Optional Time of Centering/Soaking

If possible, take some time, perhaps 5 to 15 minutes, to get into a comfortable position and simply allow the Lord to minister to you at a deep level (Psalm 42:7). Turn off or put down all distractions. Close your eyes. Hold in your thoughts a meaningful word, phrase, or image from the Scripture you read today. Release all other thoughts and concerns into the Presence of the Lord. If your thoughts wander, that's okay, just gently return to your Biblical word, phrase, or image. You may want to set a timer.



Day 35:

The Daily Worship Dance

1. Center Down

Before we begin today's spiritual excursion, please take a few moments to breathe! Take three slow, deep breaths, expanding from your abdomen; try not to raise your shoulders. As you inhale, whisper, "**Lord, wherever You lead...**" As you exhale whisper, "**...we will go.**"

2. **Slowly read aloud the following Scriptures**

(Feel free to pause at any time during your reading to reflect on, thank, praise, or acknowledge God's stirring in your thoughts and emotions.)

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened." (Matthew 13:31-33, ESV)

...

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? (Matthew 6:25-30, ESV)

For further exploration:

Video: <http://bit.do/littlethings2>

Online course: <http://bit.do/WorshipCourse>

3. Kingdom Prayer

Loving Father, we thank You for Your mercy. Thank You for knowing each of us intimately. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to be our Helper and Teacher. Thank You for blessing us socially, relationally, physically, mentally and emotionally. Father, we sing praises to You, our God and strength. We will sing, beat the tambourine and play the sweet lyre and harp. Your dwelling place is lovely. We faint with longing to enter Your courts with our whole beings, bodies and souls. We will shout joyfully to You, the living God. Your unfailing love is better than life

itself; how we praise You! We will praise You as long as we live; we will lift up our hands to You in prayer. You satisfy us more than the richest feast. We will praise You with songs of joy.

Heavenly Father, as a Church Family, we declare spiritual cleansing and renewal in our lives. We understand that those that exalt themselves will be humbled and those that are humble will be exalted. Therefore, we submit ourselves to You, Lord, trusting that in due season, You will exalt us. We confess that we have open hearts, and a Spirit of obedience that causes us to accept Your instruction quickly as You guide us throughout each day. We will prosper because we listen to your instruction, and because we trust in You, we'll have joy. Father, we renew our commitment to allow the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in our lives. We declare that as Your sheep, we know Your voice and the voice of a stranger we will not follow!

Holy Spirit, please remove the scales from our eyes concerning disobedience in our lives and circumcise our hearts so that we can see ourselves reflected in God's Word. Help us to remove all pride and haughtiness before they produce destruction and cause us to fall. Lead us to those who love Christ more than culture. Help us not to trade the truth about You for a lie, worshiping and serving things You created rather than worshiping and serving You. You are worthy of all eternal praise!

Merciful Father, forgive us for all acts of pride, fear, stubbornness and rebelliousness. Forgive us for not being obedient to Your Word in times past. Forgive us for not trusting You when life seemed too difficult for us to bear. Forgive us for not looking to You for counsel, but instead submitting to astrology, the zodiac and horoscopes to give us insight and guide our ways. Lord, forgive me for *(list any sins that You have committed)*.

Holy Spirit, remind us all of those we need to forgive and help us to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. *(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal names or faces of people that You may need to forgive. As He reveals them, say, "I forgive name of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in Your soul caused by unforgiveness.)*

Holy Spirit help us all not to yield to temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Almighty God, You are the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to You who sits on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture References for the Written Text: John 14:26, Psalm 81:1-2, Psalm 84:1-2, Psalm 63:3-5, Matt 23:12, Proverbs 16:20, Proverbs 16:18, John 10:4-5, Acts 9:18, Romans 1:25, Matthew 6:13, Revelation 22:13, Revelation 5:13

4. Concepts to Consider

As we already discovered in Day 30 above, the worship of God can arise from the most ordinary and small things. Just as “praying without ceasing” does not mean being on our knees in supplication 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, “a life of praise” is not about walking around listening to praise music 24/7. Learning the “dance of worship” is done by patiently honing our spiritual senses enough to recognize God in the ebb and flow of the big and small things of life.

In a life characterized by worship, we learn how to move through life in step with our Divine Dance Partner. He teaches us--one small step at a time--how to hold His hand during those glorious “fall on your face before the throne” experiences *and* in those mundane “clean the toilet” moments, and everything in between! When things are going according to plan, and when they’re not. When life makes sense, and when it doesn’t. In everything we are able to give thanks not because we are super spiritual, but because we refuse to leave His Presence on the “dance floor.” Jesus desires to lead us in a merry dance... on a grand adventure around swirling stars, across windy mountains, through stormy seas, among silent trees, and ultimately to just be... with Him, accompanied by the assembled ensemble of the saints and angels who cry, “Holy, Holy, Holy!”

5. Reflection Questions

a. **Personal Reflection.** As you think back on this week, how has your perspective on worship changed? How has it been affirmed? Will you dare to dance with God in worship?

b. **Kingdom Reflection.** Worship is not just about us. It's also for the sake of the world. When we give God worth, we recognize how much we--and everyone around us--are worth to God. "For God so loved the world that He gave...." What steps will you take to make your worship of God more for the sake of the Kingdom?

Optional Time of Centering/Soaking

If possible, take some time, perhaps 5 to 15 minutes, to get into a comfortable position and simply allow the Lord to minister to you at a deep level (Psalm 42:7). Turn off or put down all distractions. Close your eyes. Hold in your thoughts a meaningful word, phrase, or image from the Scripture you read today. Release all other thoughts and concerns into the Presence of the Lord. If your thoughts wander, that's okay, just gently return to your Biblical word, phrase, or image. You may want to set a timer.



Notes:

Notes:

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Prayer Power Line: 713-721-4821

www.kingdombuilders.com

www.facebook.com/incitewindsor

www.prayerinstitute.com

Kirbyjon H. Caldwell, Senior Pastor